

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09130 231449Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03
ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /099 W
-----103381 231452Z /41

O 231438Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7073
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 09130

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PBOR EG IS US XF
SUBJECT: REACTION TO CARTER-BEGIN TALKS

SUMMARY. PRESS MARCH 23 PORTRAYS BEGIN-CARTER TALKS
AS "CONFRONTATION". CARTER REPORTEDLY SAID TALKS WERE
"DETAILED AND FRANK" AND THAT "PEACE IS REMOTE". PAPERS
ALSO REPORTED BEGIN'S "STORMY" MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 09130 231449Z

COMMITTEE. AMERICAN-ISRAELI SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP
CHARACTERIZED AS IN "CRISIS". EDITORIALS CALL TALKS
"TEST OF STRENGTH", NOTE ISRAELI-AMERICAN DIFFERENCES,
AND CONCLUDE CARTER HAS BEEN FIRM. MFA OFFICIALS NOT
DISAPPOINTED, BUT ARE ASKING "WHAT NOW?" END SUMMARY.

1. ATMOSPHERICS. HEADLINES IN AHRAH AND GUMHURIYYA

PORTRAY TALKS AS "CONFRONTATION" AND DECLARE BEGIN HAD "STORMY" SESSIONS WITH CONGRESS. AHAM CARTOON FEATURES BEGIN, SEATED IN HIGHCHAIR, BEING FED BY STERN CARTER FROM BOWL MARKED "242" WITH BEGIN SAYING "I DON'T LIKE IT . . . I CAN'T STOMACH IT." GUMHURIYYA REPORTED CARTER LOOKED "TENSE AND DEJECTED."

2. TALKS. AKHBAR DESCRIBED TALKS AS "TOUGHEST NEGOTIATIONS" EVER BETWEEN AN ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER AND AMERICAN PRESIDENT, IN PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER MEETING, CARTER REPORTEDLY CHARACTERIZED TALKS AS "DETAILED AND FRANK". CARTER REAFFIRMED NECESSITY OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL FRONTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH 242 AND SAID ISRAEL'S GREAT MILITARY STRENGTH WOULD NOT PERMIT HER TO ENJOY SECURITY EXCEPT WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. (COMMENT: USIS PUTTING OUT AS PRESS RELEASE FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS.) PAPERS SAY BEGIN HAD "STORMY" FOUR-HOUR MEETING WITH INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE DURING WHICH HE WAS SHARPLY QUESTIONED AND CRITICIZED. U.S.-ISRAELI SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP NOW IN "CRISIS", NOT MERELY IN STATE OF "TEMPORARY TENSION". ONE STORY NOTED EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN WHICH SAID CARTER MAY TAKE MEASURES AGAINST ISRAEL INCLUDING EMBARGO ON ARMS DELIVERIES.

3. EDITORIALS. AHAM ("SHOW OF STRENGTH IN WASHINGTON")
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 09130 231449Z

CHARACTERIZED BEGIN-CARTER TALKS AS "TEST OF STRENGTH" AND SAID THERE IS NEED FOR DECISIVE U.S. STAND. AKHBAR ("MENACHEM BEGIN FACING THE STORM") NOTED BEGIN'S CONFLICT WITH BOTH CARTER AND CONGRESS AND THAT CARTER WAS "VERY FIRM". HIGHLIGHTING DIFFERENCES, EDITORIAL SAYS BEGIN MUST EITHER CHOOSE BETWEEN REMAINING INTRANSIGENT AND BRINGING ABOUT HIS OWN DOWNFALL OR MUST BOW TO JUSTICE AND REALIZE PACE. EDITORIAL DESPAIRED OF BEGIN CHOOSING LATTER COURSE. GUMHURIYYA REVIEWED ISRAEL'S OBJECTIONABLE STANCE AND SAID AMERICAN PRESSURE MUST CHANGE BEGIN OR CONFRONTATION WITH U.S. WILL CONTINUE.

4. REACTION OF MFA DIRECTOR-LEVEL OFFICIALS MARCH 23 WAS CALM. THEY HAD BEEN TOLD BY EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON NOT TO EXPECT DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS. THEY WERE PLEASED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD APPARENTLY REMAINED FIRM ON KEY ISSUES AND NOT PERMITTED BEGIN TO SIDETRACK DISCUSSIONS ON TO LEBANON. AT SAME TIME THEY ARE DEEPLY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT FUTURE AND WHAT STEPS U.S. WILL TAKE TO RESTORE MOMENTUM TO PEACE PROCESS. EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO09130
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780128-0419
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780334/aaaabccb.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9b3e1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3229966
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO CARTER-BEGIN TALKS SUMMARY. PRESS MARCH 23 PORTRAYS BEGIN-CARTER TALKS AS \"CONFRONTATION\".
CARTER REPORTEDLY SAID TALKS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, SOPN, EG, IS, US, XF, (CARTER, JIMMY), (BEGIN, MENAHEM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9b3e1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014